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A HISTORY  
OF  
SOUTH-KINGSTOWN

BY  
CHARLES COMSTOCK

*Reprinted with  
A Foreword  
by*  
WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER

KINGSTON  
RHODE ISLAND  
1934

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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**SHELF CARD**

"A contribution to the scanty store of material for the study of the  
social, economic and religious conditions which existed in the smaller  
townships of New England in the early years of the republic ... it is,  
in all probability, not a wholly distorted representation of the thoughts  
and manners of his contemporaries, especially of a class usually deemed  
unworthy of perpetuation in  
historical record."--Foreword,  
cf. Sabin.

1. South Kingston, R. I.



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(1588)



## Foreword

IF by anyone an excuse be deemed necessary for the reprinting of this scurrilous, ribald but amusing pamphlet, let it be found in the fact that it is the source from which "Shepard Tom" drew that delightful tale of the Cat Inspector, a man who "had a very enterprising ingenu in cats and wanted it to be discovered to the public," and retold by him, in a slightly expurgated form, in the *Jonny Cake Papers*. Yet there is, I believe, another plausible reason why *The History of South Kingstown* should be printed for a second time: to make more readily available a contribution to the scanty store of material for the study of the social, economic and religious conditions which existed in the smaller townships of New England in the early years of the Republic. Although it is certain that this history was not written in that "very still frame of mind" that Comstock once experienced, but rather with a bitter resentment against real or imagined wrongs; it is, in all probability, not a wholly distorted representation of the thoughts and the manners of his contemporaries, especially of a class usually deemed unworthy of perpetuation in historical record.

As to Charles Comstock himself, little can be learned other than that which has been related by "Shepard Tom." That he was an "odd character" seems to be superfluous comment, but it is of interest that at one period he kept a boarding house or tavern on the Ferry Wharf in Newport and "had for his tavern sign swinging on hinges over the sidewalk, the full length picture

# Summary

The following is a summary of the main points discussed in the report. It is intended to provide a concise overview of the findings and conclusions for the management team. The report is organized into several sections, each addressing a specific aspect of the project. The first section, 'Introduction', outlines the purpose and scope of the study. The second section, 'Methodology', describes the research methods used to collect and analyze data. The third section, 'Results', presents the findings of the study, including statistical analysis and key observations. The fourth section, 'Discussion', interprets the results in the context of the research objectives and existing literature. The final section, 'Conclusion', summarizes the overall findings and provides recommendations for future research and practical applications. The report concludes that the study has successfully identified the key factors influencing the project's outcome and offers valuable insights for the management team to inform their decision-making process.

of a thick-set, squat built man, holding a big tom cat aloft in his left hand, whilst he grasped a hot iron in his right, in the act of branding the quadruped . . . beneath which . . . was printed . . . 'LISHA GARNER, CAT INSPECTOR.' His claim to a degree and to a fellowship in the Royal Society cannot seriously be considered but should rather be attributed to the quality of his sense of humor.

In this reprint the original text has been followed without change or correction, save that a portion of one sentence has been deleted; a sentence which offends the religious rather than the moral proprieties. The half title, the title and the frontispiece are reproduced in facsimile but the variation in the size of the type has been corrected. The Newport printer of the original evidently did not have a large stock of type, since after page 25 he dropped from ten point to eight point and employed the latter to the end of the book. Of the three copies recorded in Providence, use has been made of that copy in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society; and to this Society and to its Librarian, Howard M. Chapin, Esq., I wish to express sincere appreciation for the privileges and courtesies extended to me.

WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER

*"Waitelands"*

*Kingston, Rhode Island*

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that the study of the history of the United States is essential for a full understanding of the country and its people. The paper then goes on to discuss the various methods used by historians to study the past, including the use of primary and secondary sources, and the importance of critical thinking in the study of history.

2. The second part of the paper discusses the role of the United States in the world. It is argued that the United States has played a significant role in the world since the end of the Second World War, and that this role has been both positive and negative. The paper then goes on to discuss the various ways in which the United States has influenced the world, including through its economic power, its military power, and its cultural influence.

3. The third part of the paper discusses the future of the United States. It is argued that the United States faces many challenges in the future, including the challenge of maintaining its economic power, the challenge of maintaining its military power, and the challenge of maintaining its cultural influence. The paper then goes on to discuss the various ways in which the United States can meet these challenges, including through the use of economic, military, and cultural power.

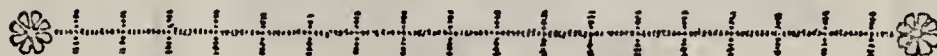
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A HISTORY

OF

*SOUTH-KINGS TOWN, &c.*





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

1994

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT





*The Cat Inspector.*



Figure 1. 1. 1.

A HISTORY  
OF  
SOUTH-KINGSTOWN;

WITH A  
*PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION*  
OF THE  
HORNET'S NEST COMPANY,  
AND THE  
· *CATS LET OUT OF THE BAG :*

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BY CHARLES COMSTOCK, L. L. D. F. R. S.

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NEWPORT :  
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.  
1806.

A. B. 1874

1874

THE SOUTH-AMERICAN

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THE SOUTH-AMERICAN

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## PREFACE.

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*AS there has not been any history given of that town, to my knowledge, and as the inhabitants of it are somewhat singular, I think it necessary that there should be a history of them, given, to let the public know what sort of people there are in the world, (for the world lies in wickedness:) And it is necessary that the youth should know this fact, in their early stage of life, in order that they may escape the snares and cheats in this world, which are many to deceive. For these reasons, I think it necessary to give the following history.*





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# A HISTORY

## OF

### *SOUTH-KINGSTOWN, &c.*

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ABOUT the last of March, A. D. 1802, I moved into South-Kingstown, which is bounded Easterly and Southerly on the sea, Westerly on Charlestown and Richmond, and Northerly on North-Kingstown. The land next to the sea is very good for Indian corn and barley, and excellent for grazing. The people are free-hearted with their victuals and drink; the most so of any part of the world that ever I was in—Their advice to me I thought was very singular. One of my neighbors said my house was a good stand for a public house, and had been made use of in that branch of business, it being the mansion house of John Potter, Esq. deceased. And there was an out-house belonging to it, about one hundred rods from it, which I rented out, and which my neighbour told me was a good place to rent out to two squaws: That it would be a good plan for me to take out a licence, and get a hogshead of rum, and let the squaws come to my house, and have a room to be in private with such men as wanted them; for rum and women was in the best demand of any thing in that town. I told my neighbor that I would not keep such a house, and not only so, but there would be too much trusting in the business. He told me to trust the people, and if they did not pay me soon, to sue them, and that would bring more custom to the house. My neighbour I found out by woful experience, knew the disposition of that sort of people better than I did; for as





I made some mistake in marking of a flock of sheep, and through mistake marked some that was not mine they reported that I was a thief, and gave me an infamous character; and although they reported such a story, the people of that town would not believe it, that were men in good credit, for they are not all drunkards and squaw hunters; for there is a number of men in that town, who are men of excellent good characters, and despite all such wicked conduct—It is an easy town to get a living in; some of them get rich; and I have observed in experience, so far through life, that where a place is easy to get a living in, the morals of the people are apt to be corrupted; for if people are not in some employment, they will soon get into vice. For idleness leads people to drinking, gaming and other bad habits, which has frequently taken place in South-Kingstown; for those who have been rich, have frequently brought up their children in idleness and luxury, which has led them into bad company and many vices, which have been the means of their spending what their parents gave them. I believe it is best for parents that are rich or poor, to bring up their children strictly in some honest employment. The people of South-Kingstown are generally industrious in mowing time; but the rest of the year, many of them are very idle. Their farmers farms are very much overrun with brush. In the spring of the year there is a number of men that follow fishing which takes up considerable part of their time, for there is a great many fish caught in that town, especially in the pond colled Potter's pond, and also in Narrow-river. As to their religion, part of it is Rum, some of them are Nothingarians, some of them Universalists, a few of them Friends, and some of them are Baptists, but most of them are Nothingarians. I believe that Nothingarian religion, Universal Salvation and Rum Religion, are very suitable to go together, if it is proper



to call them Religion; for I think that the Universal Doctrine, Nothingarians and Rum, generally go together. All Religion is measurably good, that adds to mankind's morals; but that which hurts their morals is bad. I believe that the three that I mentioned that were suitable to go together, are like deadly poison to man's happiness, and lead them off from taking up their daily Cross and following Christ. With regard to regeneration and newness of life, which leads mankind into meekness of heart, our Saviour said, blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall see God; blessed are the meek in heart, for they have the promise of eternal life. This making the way to heaven easier than it is, is deceiving ourselves; for our Saviour said, if you live in your sins, and die in them, where I go, ye cannot come. Further he said to Nicodemus, that he must be born again. This being born again, takes away our sins and iniquities, and brings people to newness of life. We read in scripture, that there was a whirlwind, and the Lord was not in it; but there was a still small voice, and the Lord was in it. When I was about sixteen years old, I was at work in the woods, and I went to a spring, and got some water to drink, and sat down on a rock in a very still frame of mind, and in thinking of my past conduct and way of living, I thought seriously upon religion, and in silent waiting on the Lord, my sins and iniquities were set before me; and in that waiting, I found it my duty to refrain from my vain way of living: and the plain language was set before me, which was a great cross to my mind. I strove to make some other profession of Religion that was easier and not so much in the cross, but I found if there was no cross there would be no crown. But still I strove in my mind to shun the cross; for to be brought down to a life of self-denial, is a great cross to the mind that wants liberty; and my wild nature was not willing to take the yoke of Christ





on me; and I put off the serious thoughts; for I found that I must leave all my former companions in vanity, and retire alone; for in my silent waiting, the passage of scripture came fresh in my mind, where it says thou must give an account for every idle word; and it appeared to me that most of my conversation was idle. But I turned my back upon the reproofs of instruction, till I was about eighteen years old; yet in the mean time my mind often was disturbed and could not find that inward peace which my distressed mind wanted to find.

I went to hear that worthy Friend Rachel Wilson, from old England; and heard her declare the gospel testimony, which she did with so much power and eloquence, that I could not withstand the inward duties of divine grace in my mind any longer; but gave up to the heavenly call; and in that call I found it my duty to use the plain language, which was to say thee and thou to a single person, and leave my former company and companions in vice and folly. I retired much alone, was often in tears, both night and day. I could write much upon my experience; but I have not set out to write upon religion, but to give a history of the people of South-Kingstown.

Some of the people of that town, being as ignorant about pure religion as Nicodemus was about the new birth, and in their ignorance not knowing THOU from THOUCHE, in that dark state of mind, and in derision, called me thouce; and asked me what I said thouce for. They said if I would leave off saying thouce, that they should like me better. I did not so much wonder at their ignorance, after I heard one of them in conversing about religion . . . . . This is owing to their being in a dark state of mind; for disobedience makes a long wilderness. Thus we read in scripture, that the Children of Israel were forty years in



the wilderness. I believe that disobedience makes a long wilderness.

Many of them think themselves very cunning when they have cheated one another; for their art and craft is to cheat every one that they can. After they have cheated another, by deceiving or lying, they frequently boast of it, and say they have outcunned the person that they dealt with; that they told him a lie, and made him believe it was truth—for they glory in their shame: We read of some men's glorying in their shame. They are not often ashamed unless they have taken one another's word, and have been cheated by believing each other. What men of wisdom despise, they call very cunning. Their craft is often to make a bargain, and if they find that it is not to their interest to stand to their word, they will frequently say that they were in jest: for that is part of their sort of wit. Another sort of their craft is to find out other men's business; to see if they can raise some false report about a stranger; and if the stranger is as artful to make a lye, and tell it, as they are themselves, then they think him very cunning and he will soon have credit amongst them. Some of them are artful to find out what a man owes; and report that he owes three or four times as much as he does owe; and some of them will, if they owe the same man, report that he owes them; or else they don't serve other strangers as they served me. This is part of ———— craft; and he is not alone in the business. Some of them will call a man a fool if he stands to his word, if it was against his interest; for he might have got off by telling the man he made the bargain with, that he was in jest.—This way of treating mankind, they think very cunning.

After I purchased the farm of Job Hopkins, in the aforesaid town of South-Kingstown, they reported that I had bought farms, and could not pay for them, which





was a notorious falsehood. One of my neighbors came riding into the field half drunk, and said here is a man who has purchased a farm, and cannot pay for it.

In the fall of the year after I moved into South-Kingstown, I purchased a cargo on credit to carry on to Nantucket; and I was cast away, which prevented me from making immediate remittances. Soon after I went out of the county, into the county of Providence, to collect some money, to pay for the articles I had purchased. They reported that I had run away. When I returned home, I found seven copies of writs, and one pair of my oxen carried off. I was very angry; and I told some of them, that the wolves had been amongst my sheep, and that I thought mankind in nature the most like the hogs of any creature I could compare them to. For if one hog gets hung in the fence, and squeels, the rest of the hogs will fall a fowl of him, & kill him, if he cant get loose. I thought their conduct looked so to me; for when one has met with a misfortune, for all to fall on him, bespeaks the nature of swine, more than of good neighbors.

As I had bought a lot of land of ———, and given him a mortgage deed of the same land, and eighteen acres of the land that I purchased before of Job Hopkins, they reported that I should forfeit the eighteen acre lot and that if I did not pay a certain sum of money by the 25 of the next March. All this was false, and as many more falsehoods as they could think of, they told about me, to destroy my credit; and sent them over the State as fast as they could; for they knew if they could destroy my credit, they could destroy my interest, and have a good chance to get some plunder.

Many of them are poor pay; and it is very hard to collect any money from many of them. For one of them had been indebted to me for some time, and I found



that it was hard to get the pay from him; and I bought something of him, so that I became indebted to him; and soon after I became in debt to him, we settled, and I gave him a note on demand with his promise that he would not sue me; and he sued me in less than one hour after I gave him the note: For that is part of their craft.

There is one ———, who some of them boast much of, as a very crafty man, and subtle man, whom I think proper to mention in this pamphlet. And I suppose he is of the Scotch-Irish extract, from what I have seen and heard of his conduct. His art is to be as smooth as any Irishman that ever I was acquainted with. For after I had purchased the aforesaid lot of him, and got a deed of it, I promised him that the deed should not go on record, till I had got Mary Hopkins's right of dower secured to me on the eighteen acre lot, that I had mortgaged to the above said ——— for his security for the land I purchased of him. He then contrived another plan, that was if I would let out to him part of the meadow that I purchased of him, he would agree for the deed to go on record, which was lodged in the Clerk's office; for he said it would cut him short of hay. And he said he had got a large number of young stock, and he could not winter them, if he did not have more meadow. And further, he promised me that he would wait longer for the first payment; and not only so, he said it would do him a good kindness. And we agreed that he was to have twelve acres at the east end of the lot, and ten at the west end of the lot. He insisted upon having a lease that day; and I did not know his craft in having the lease that day; and Robert Sands was present, and he wrote a lease for twelve acres at the east end of the land, that——— said that he purchased of George Potter, and ten acres at the west end; for he told me that he bought the





whole of the land of George Potter. And when I came to find out that he purchased the east end of Henry Potter, and that the land was worth three times as much as the land that I agreed to let him have, and that the land which I kept was not worth one third part so much as the land that he by his lies got a lease of, and that I was ketched, I asked him how he come to tell me such a falsehood; and he told me that I should not have taken his word, but gone to the record and seen for myself: I thought that was a curious turn for a man to tell a lie, and then say that I should not have taken his word: It plainly showed me that he was a common liar, for I fully believe that has been his practice, and is still his practice. But when a man has followed that business so long as I think he has followed it, he has not so good a chance to cheat the people as he had when he first began the trade. For lying is a business that if a man intends to follow, he must go where he is not known, or come across a stranger. I think it is highly necessary that such a man should be published and made as public as possible. Some men think if they get ketched by such a villain, that they will let others find him out as they have done. But I am of a different opinion: For when a man has been robbed of his money, he generally published it in the newspaper, to notify the people so that they may be on their guard. And I think it is as necessary that people should know the above said———; for I don't think that there are many robbers that have made so much money by robbing, as I think he has by lying. For the chance of getting clear of a robber, I think is better, than the chance of getting clear of the above said ——, for he pretends a great deal of friendship. A robber's faculty is to scare men out of their money; and I think it is likely that —— would have taken up that business, if he had been a man of courage. But I sup-

1885

The following table shows the number of persons who have been admitted to the various hospitals of the city of London, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1885. The total number of admissions is 1,234,567. The number of admissions to the various hospitals is as follows:—

Hospital	Admissions
St. George's Hospital	123,456
St. Thomas's Hospital	112,345
St. Andrew's Hospital	98,765
St. Martin's Hospital	87,654
St. James's Hospital	76,543
St. Peter's Hospital	65,432
St. Paul's Hospital	54,321
St. John's Hospital	43,210
St. Mary's Hospital	32,109
St. Elizabeth's Hospital	21,098
St. Luke's Hospital	10,987
St. David's Hospital	9,876
St. Philip's Hospital	8,765
St. Nicholas's Hospital	7,654
St. Michael's Hospital	6,543
St. George's Hospital	5,432
St. Thomas's Hospital	4,321
St. Andrew's Hospital	3,210
St. Martin's Hospital	2,109
St. James's Hospital	1,098
St. Peter's Hospital	987
St. Paul's Hospital	876
St. John's Hospital	765
St. Mary's Hospital	654
St. Elizabeth's Hospital	543
St. Luke's Hospital	432
St. David's Hospital	321
St. Philip's Hospital	210
St. Nicholas's Hospital	109
St. Michael's Hospital	98
St. George's Hospital	87
St. Thomas's Hospital	76
St. Andrew's Hospital	65
St. Martin's Hospital	54
St. James's Hospital	43
St. Peter's Hospital	32
St. Paul's Hospital	21
St. John's Hospital	10
St. Mary's Hospital	9
St. Elizabeth's Hospital	8
St. Luke's Hospital	7
St. David's Hospital	6
St. Philip's Hospital	5
St. Nicholas's Hospital	4
St. Michael's Hospital	3
St. George's Hospital	2
St. Thomas's Hospital	1

pose he has not courage enough to make so finished a robber, as he is a liar. For he appears to me to have a great faculty in lying. The devil is said to be subtle. We read in scripture, that he was more subtle than the beasts of the field, and that he is the father of lies: he teaches his servants to lie, and trains them up in deceit and lies. I suppose that ———— learnt his trade of him. We read in scripture, that the Savior of the world of mankind was carried up on a pinnacle to be tempted. Satan offered him all the glory of the world, if he would fall down and worship him. I think it is very likely that ———— has made an alliance with him; for his kingdom is of this world. ———— has acquired a great deal of this world's goods; and I suppose that a great part of it has been obtained under a pretension of friendship. I have thought that to pretend friendship, in order to get away a man's property, is not so honorable as to be a common highway robber; for then a man has some chance to save his money. After I found that ———— friendship was to get all he can, and that he does not scruple to tell any lie or lies to obtain his ends, I advised him to take up highway robbing, in order to raise his credit.

Now to convince mankind that he is such a man as I have described him to be, I shall endeavor to set forth his conduct with me, which is as follows. I shall first return back to their sueing me. ————, whilst I was gone out of the county, as I mentioned before, amongst the rest sued me; and never asked me for the money; but drove on as fast as he could. After I returned home he told me that he was my friend, and that he was sorry he had sued me; and that he would lend me twenty dollars if I wanted them, for he was not afraid of losing the money that I owed him: and that he was my friend, and that he would not distress me.—





Sometimes the devil will appear as an angel of light; for rough means will not always answer his ends. I believe that he is as faithful to the devil, as ever Paul was to the light of Christ; for after he had offered to lend me money, and the execution was almost run out, he agreed to indorse a note for me at Washington Bank for two hundred dollars, and send it on by Robert Helme, if I would make over my stock to him; and the money was not to come into my hands, till the stock was made over to him; for we did not know whether the note would be discounted or not. The note was discounted, and he went to Helme's and got the money into his own hands; and forty-six dollars of the money he kept in his hands; and not only so, but part of the money that one pair of the oxen were sold for, was not turned into the bank; and he kept that, and the forty-six dollars also. And I suppose that I have rode and travelled near three hundred miles after him for it; and I got impatient; and I sued him; and he to put off the payment, put in an answer, and reported that I owed him; for that was his art. And he wished to make a rule of court, and settle all matters subsisting between us; and after the men had met once, he said that he would not meet, and that he would stop the judgement from being received, by pleading that he had never had a day in court; that they decided *ex parte*; for that is a part of his craft. Sometimes he will answer a note of hand under an expectation that if it is answered, that the docket will be so full that the Court will not get to it; and that will put off the payment one year. People begin to be shy of his word. Some say that he has frequently promised twelve per. cent; and when it has been running two or three years, he will say that he will not pay such great interest, and tell them that they may sue him; for that is cheaper for him than to pay

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twelve per cent; for he knows that they cant recover but six per cent.

Part of his conduct with me I have forgot, which I think proper to insert, though it had ought to have come in before. That is, when I was about to purchase a cargo to carry on to Nantucket, in the year A. D. 1803, in the month of September, he appeared very friendly; but it turned out to be Scotch Irish friendship. For I bought four heifers of him, and he was to wait till my return; and before I got out of sight of Connanicut light-house, he sent the note to the hornet's nest, to get a writ, and attached all my land; although before I went away, he offered to give his note and take mine, if any body that I bought of chose his note, rather than mine. After I returned home, he came to me, to borrow twenty dollars of me. I told him that my money was all in silver, and that I had promised it to the bank; for that was the agreement that I had made with the directors, and I could not lend the money. He told me that he had lent me some once; and being my indorser at the bank I did not know how to refuse to let him have the money. He promised me that he would pay me the silver dollars in one week, upon point of honor. So I let him have the money; and I kept the note about six months, and I could not get the money of him, and I put the note away to a person that held a note against me, for about fifteen dollars. The person would not take the note, without I would take the remainder out of his shop; or he would put the note in suit. So I let the person have the note and took the remainder out of his shop, rather than to be sued.

After that I had got entangled with him, a credible man informed me, that he had broke almost all the men that he undertook to befriend; and that he had cheated the widow and fatherless out of about one thou-





sand dollars. After he and I made a part of a settlement, the greatest difficulty was I scrupled his note, and his word, for fear he would not pay me according as he promised, for he promised to pay me thirty dollars the next day by ten of the clock in the forenoon, and if he did not pay it by that time, he promised to forfeit fifty dollars, and called witness of it. I thought that I would try him once more, and see if he would keep to his word; for I thought that was not commonly his practice; but I did not know but there was a reformation in him; for he made himself affronted, because that I scrupled his word. I remember of my uncle James Comstock's having a boy, that was bound an apprentice to him, and he was so bad, and cunning and thievish with all, that he concluded it was best to get up the indentures, and let him go to his mother. Some time afterwards, the boy enlisted into the army. After he had been in the continental service some time, he returned to see his old master, which was my uncle;—and he told him that he had got to be steady, and had left off all his old tricks, and in order to convince him, he stole a number of articles out of the house. ———

———, in order to convince me that his word was good, and that he was a punctual man, and kept his word, never came that day, and did not pay me thirty dollars, as he promised me. I think the Indian boy's word, and ——— word, were just alike. Although ——— is a common liar, he talks sometimes of going to heaven: I cant see what expectation he has, except he purchases a right there. I believe that if the kingdom of heaven could be purchased with money that he would be willing to give his note for a large sum. If he could contrive to get a bank of paper money, and have it depreciate fifteen dollars for one, or contrive to cheat the Deity by fair promises, as he does his fellow-citizens, there would be no difficulty in his succeeding.



I do not know but that the devil has promised him some such thing, or given him some encouragement that way. I do not think that the devil will be any honestest with him, than he has been with me, and the rest of the people that he has undertook to befriend. It appears to me that he will deceive him, for I think he has got to be almost a finished drunkard; and if what has been reported be true, the prayer of David is coming upon him. Some say that he has been guilty of carrying a bottle of rum with him, to one of his own townsmen, in order to get him drunk, so that he might get his land for half the value of it; and got his arms round him, and hugged him, and pretended a great deal of friendship to him. David prayed that his enemies might be caught in the same device that they had devised against him, or in words to that import. Now if it be really so, that he has made a league with the devil, the same light that shews him that he has made such a league, will direct him how to break it, if it is strictly adhered to. What a pity it is, that he cant know himself as he is, and not deceive himself; for he has but little comfort in his mind that I can discover, his mind being almost continually perplexed, night and day; yet he calls himself an honest man, and so deceives himself. Now if he could see himself as I see him, or as he might see himself, I believe he would turn back the property that he has cheated people out of; for what is it for aman to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul. So I shall leave him, and commend him to that light, that will show him evil of his ways, if he will take heed to it.

There is a little village in this town, where the court-house stands, called Little Rest. Some people call it Restless Hill. I think it resembles a hornet's nest; for the people are some like hornets. There are some





men that live at that hill, who are men of good characters, who do not join the hornet's nest cunning;—for many of them glory in their shame, which I shall more fully set forth hereafter. There are some young men that live there, who are not in so full communion with the hornet's nest cunning, although they are sometimes drawn in; for bad company bears a great sway upon the youth. To those my advice is, not to join in with that sort of wit, which leads them from the truth, and not to learn that sort of craft, that leads them to impose upon strangers, or any body else; for that will mar their beauty. My mind feels for them that they may be kept from being drawn into evil habits. My advice further is, for them to keep close to the truth, and attend strictly to that which teaches their minds to live soberly and godly in this present evil world. I could say much more to them, but that is not the subject. I set out to write the history of South-Kingstown; therefore I shall return to the subject I set out to write upon. I think it proper to describe something of the hornet's nest religion. Some call them nothingarians. That sort of religion if it is proper to call it religion, puts me in mind of what a man said about his religion. Being asked what religion he was of, his answer was that he thanked God that he had no religion. Having given a small description of their religion, I shall endeavor to describe their wit, which I shall call hornet's nest cunning; which is as follows. And after the readers of this pamphlet have read it, they perhaps will be able to form a judgment, whether they glory in their shame or not. There is one who lives at the hornet's nest, and is at the head of that sort of people which I shall hereafter describe, who are the rabble of that village, and its vicinity. One of the hornet's nest company told me that who is a very fat man, fatted on lies. The above said



told me, that he had broke up people from getting drunk at the hornet's nest; for his practice was to pour water in their sleeves, and that had broke up their getting drunk there. That I believe has been practiced frequently to strangers; and boasted of by the above said . It is frequently the

case, when men are at the hill, that they are very much imposed upon by that hornet's nest company: Sometimes men that are old, and sometimes young; for men in the country are not so well versed in lying as that company. And I saw this and

a number of others making sport of an old man that was somewhat intoxicated. The old man told them that he had a note upon William Nichols. Some of the company told the old man that they did not believe he had got such a note. He said he had; and they told him if he had such a note that it was a forged one;—for they would lay a wager with him, that he had not got one, and if he had one, it was a forged one. Then this sent for a young man, and

when he was come, called him William Nichols, and asked him if the old man had a note against him, and he said that he had not, and the old man said that he had, and they disputed about it, and the young man said he would indict him for forgery if he did not give up the note, and pay him two dollars; and

told the old man, that he was his friend; and advised him to give up the note, and pay the two dollars, or he would be cropt and branded. And they made much sport, and abused the old man shamefully with their lies and their hornet's nest cunning.

I am credibly informed that an old man got intoxicated at the hornet's nest, and poured one quart of water in his sleeve, and pretended that he was the old man's friend, and said that he





wit                               boasts much of; and it is

They term squaw hunting, hunting black rats;

being a deputy sheriff, and belong-

being a deputy sheriff, and belonging to the hornet's nest company, and being full of hornet's nest wit, and activity, bethought himself that he

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold. It was a sharp contrast to the warm blanket I had been sitting under. I looked up at the sky, which was a pale, hazy blue. The air was crisp and clean, a welcome change from the stuffy interior of the car. I took a deep breath, feeling the cool air fill my lungs. The sun was just beginning to rise, casting a soft, golden glow over the landscape. The trees were bare, their branches reaching out like skeletal fingers against the sky. The ground was covered in a thin layer of snow, which glistened in the early morning light. I walked slowly, my boots crunching on the snow. The silence was absolute, broken only by the occasional rustle of leaves or the distant call of a bird. I felt a sense of peace and tranquility, a feeling I had not experienced in a long time. The world seemed so quiet and still, as if it had been holding its breath. I walked on, enjoying the solitude and the beauty of the winter morning. The cold was not unpleasant, it was invigorating. It reminded me of the days when I was a child, when the cold was just another challenge to be overcome. I smiled to myself, feeling a sense of nostalgia. The morning was perfect, just what I needed. I continued my walk, taking in the sights and sounds of the winter landscape. The snow was so soft and fluffy, it felt like walking on clouds. The trees were so tall and thin, they seemed to stretch all the way to the sky. The air was so fresh and clean, it was like drinking from a fountain. I felt so alive, so free. The world was so beautiful, so perfect. I was so lucky to be here, in this moment. I would cherish this memory forever. The morning was so peaceful, so calm. It was a perfect start to a new day. I felt so hopeful, so optimistic. The future was so bright, so full of promise. I was so grateful for everything. The world was so wonderful, so amazing. I was so lucky to be here, in this moment. I would cherish this memory forever. The morning was so peaceful, so calm. It was a perfect start to a new day. I felt so hopeful, so optimistic. The future was so bright, so full of promise. I was so grateful for everything. The world was so wonderful, so amazing. I was so lucky to be here, in this moment. I would cherish this memory forever.



would make April fools of some of his fellow hornets. He goes the first day of April to Asa Fellows, who was his brother in law, and told him that Miss Potter wanted to see him; others he told that somebody else wanted to see them; and made April fools of them. This Asa Fellows being well acquainted with the hornet's nest cunning, the next year went and got a blank writ, with a Justice's name to it, and made out an account against Pemberton Belcher, and got his writ filled up, and the first day of April in the morning, went to \_\_\_\_\_ and told him that he wanted him to serve a writ for him, upon Pemberton Belcher.— \_\_\_\_\_ told him that he could not do it, for he had a vendue to attend at Boston Neck; and told him he must get some other officer to serve it. Fellows told him that he could not get any other officer, and told him further that the man lived out of the state, and that he was afraid he should lose the debt, and insisted upon \_\_\_\_\_ going to serve it; and he told that he would be likely to find him at a house about 3 miles from the Hill, which he named; and when \_\_\_\_\_ got there, they told him that they did not know such a man; and told him there was a man by the name of Joseph Belcher, that lived about two miles off, and \_\_\_\_\_ went there also; but could not find a man by the name of Pemberton Belcher; and I dont suppose there was such a man to be found. In the mean time Fellows acquainted the people on the Hill, what an errand \_\_\_\_\_ was gone on; and when he came back, the people called him April fool; and his wife April fooled him too, amongst the rest; and he was very angry; and swore that he would prosecute Fellows for serving him such a low dirty trick. I suppose he did not consider that it was a low dirty trick for him to call or send his neighbors out of their business by his lies, I suppose he thought himself very cunning



when he was in that business; and when he was ketch-  
ed in his own craft, then he could see that it was a low  
dirty trick, and I suppose that when he was pouring  
the water in the old man's sleeve, he thought he was  
very witty indeed; and I have no doubt in my mind,  
that if he was to go into company, and they were to  
contrive a plot against him, and pour water in his  
sleeve, he would call it as low and dirty a trick, as he  
did when he went to serve the writ on Pemberton Bel-  
cher. It is an old saying that they who live in glass  
houses, should be careful of throwing stones into other  
men's windows.

This hornet's nest company are very fond of of-  
fice; are often proud of it, if it is a Constable's office;  
for they are fond of being where liquor is passing a-  
bout freely. It is generally the case, that men that are  
proud of an office, are not fit for it. This  
being witty, and very lazy, and very fond of office,  
and a deputy sheriff, and an auctioneer in the town  
where he lives, and supporting his family by his offices,  
he and                      put their heads together.  
wanted to have the title of a colonel, and                      want-  
ed to contrive to get another office. They contrived a  
plan to have a cat-trade, that                      might bear the  
title of colonel, and                      whose wit and genius run  
very much in cats, (for he had a very enterprising *in-  
genu* in cats, and wanted it to be discovered to the pub-  
lic) bethought himself that he would contrive a cat-  
trade; and that if his knowledge in cats could be made  
known to the public, he might obtain the honor of the  
office of a Cat-Inspector-General. And being very wit-  
ty to obtain his ends, agrees with                      that he should  
be a cat-merchant, and himself a cat-purchaser; in  
hopes that this would introduce a cat-traffick. In order  
to obtain their ends, they set out to execute their plan  
to obtain their offices, or to get the title of them; for





the name of an office, in such peoples view, is a great thing with them. I being at Joseph Reynolds's, and being a stranger to me, came, in and set down in the room, it being in the evening. By and by came in with a calico gown on; and when he came in, took him by the hand and said how do you do . And said to me, Mr. Comstock, this is , of New-London;— and said to , this is Mr. Comstock, he lives in the great house that was formerly John Potter's. And , knowing that I wanted to purchase a quantity of butter to carry on to Nantucket, asked what was the price of butter at New-London, said eleven cents. asked him if he could furnish Mr. Comstock with a quantity of butter, said he could furnish him with three or four thousand weight, with his having a few days notice, as he kept a large store at New-London. I told that I should want it on a credit of sixty days; and told him that Comstock was an honest man, and there was no doubt but that he would pay him honestly. And I told that I would take one thousand weight first, and when I made the remittances, I would take two thousand weight more: And we agreed. After we had agreed about the butter, he asked me if I knew where he could purchase a quantity of mules. I told him that Connecticut was the place for mules; for we did not raise but a few in this state. said they were all bought up in Connecticut, and shipped off.— asked him what he would give a head for mules. He said if they were likely ones, he would give sixty dollars a head for them. Then tucked my elbow, and asked me to go aside with him; and when we were aside together he told me that Sylvester Hazard had two mules, that were very likely ones, and he wanted to sell them, and I could buy them on a long



credit. And as I was much embarrassed, (for he held two executions against me, returnable in about ten days) and as                    said that                    was very anxious to get the mules, for he had come there with two bags of money; and said further, that he thought that he would give seventy dollars rather than not get them, for he offered sixty dollars; and said that I might get through my raising the money without straitning me, and make money by the bargain; and further, that Sylvester Hazard was at young James Helmes's, and that I had better go down there and see him, and talk with him about it. Accordingly I went; and when I went into the house, I asked if Sylvester Hazard was there. The answer was, that he had gone home. In about two minutes                    and                    and a number of young men that lived at the hornet's nest, came in. And when they came in,                    enquired for Sylvester Hazard; and the answer was, that he had gone home. He said that he must see him that night, or very early the next morning.                    said to me that I had better go and see Sylvester Hazard that night, for                    would go there that night or very early the next morning.                    asked                    if he would give seventy dollars for likely mules.                    said that he would not give but sixty dollars a head for them, if they were ever so likely.                    asked him if he wanted to buy any Jacks.                    said he did not.                    told him that the cats were destroyed in two of the W. India Islands; and that he had better carry some cats along with his mules; for they would fetch a great price.                    said that he intended to carry a quantity of cats with his mules.                    agreed with him to furnish him two hundred cats, at seventy five cents a piece; and he entered into writings; and I and two more men joined with                    in partnership. And when he was a writing the agreement, he wrote it to





have twenty that night, and if 20 could be procured that night he would take two hundred at seventy-five cents a piece. I told Gardner that it was too late to get any cats that night Gardner said I and George Douglass could go to Squire French's for he had got six or seven cats, I told him that he would be abed, and Gardner said that I could call at his window and he would get up, Gardner said further, that he had got five or six and that he and his partner would go to his own house and get them, and meet us at the coffee-house, and that we could furnish the cats in half an hour; I told Gardner that I would not call any body up to buy cats, accordingly I and Douglass went to Squire French's, and he was abed, and Douglass asked me to call him up, and I told him that I should not call him up, and Douglass called him up himself, and when he got up, Douglass told him that we wanted to purchase some cats, and asked him if he had got any, he said he had got seven, I told him that I was a going to bring some pigs next week to sell, and that I would pay him in pig pork for the cats if he and I could agree, and I asked him what he would take a head for his cats, and he said three pounds of pork for one pound of cat, and I told him that I thought pig pork was worth as much a pound as cat's meat, and I should not give that price, and while we was talking about it, Gardner and his partner came up and told me that I must not stand, for Cook had a notion of flying off from the agreement, I told Gardner to go away, for that was not the way to purchase any thing, to show so much anxiety; Gardner went aside and I agreed with French to give him three pounds of pig pork apeace for his cats, and when we went to look for the cats French found but two, and Gardner said that Colonel Cook was at Joseph Reynolds's, for they were abed at Barker's, and accordingly they went to Reynolds's and Reynolds and his wife was abed, and Cook took the cats and said



they were likely ones, and handed the money to Gardner; Reynolds said that he had got some cats and said that his daughter might sell them, for he was willing to take pig pork for them, and his daughter went and looked up the cats, and brought two, and Cook took them also, and the girl went up chamber and found the old cat as they called her, and she had six kittens, and Cook said he must have four kittens in lieu of one cat, and we agreed and he paid the money to Gardner, for we were all partners together, and I told Cook that I had agreed with French for five more cats, and that I would give him an order for them, and he said he would take it, and Gardner said that he had been to James Helms's, and that he had got eight cats and he would take pig pork also, and said further, that Elipha Potte had seven and he would take pig pork likewise, and that Barker had five and he would take pig pork likewise, and the orders were, written and I signed them, and after we had got through Gardner openly declared that he had received all the money for all the cats, and for all the orders that Mr. Comstock had turned in, and he had received twenty dollars for Mr. Comstock, and Cook said that he had agreed with Lunt to go on to New-London and carry two-hundred cats, and that he had bought a cow, to give milk to find them, and that he wanted twenty delivered to Peter Boss's next day by ten of the clock in the forenoon, and said that if I would deliver them he would pay me one dollar extra, for delivering them to Boss's.

And it was agreed upon by the Cat Company that I was to wake up George Douglass earley the next morning, and I awakened him accordingly, and he and I went to Gardner's and roused him up also, and he and his partner was to go one way, and I and my partner to go another way, and accordingly we went to Silvester Hazard's to get his mules, and we could not buy them so that it would answer, and Douglass said that he knew where





we could buy some cats, and we went and bought two for six cents a piece, and then went to Doctor Aldrich's and he gave us one cat, and then we went to the hill, and there was a man at the hill that said he had some, and I went with him, it being about one hundred rods and got two more, and I returned back to the hill. In the mean time the people that had got cats that they wanted to part with, had brought them to the above Reynolds's and shut them up in a closet, about sixteen in all: and the time of day was nearly come that I was to deliver them at Peter Bosses, and Silvester Robertson came and told me that it was all a joke, and James Helms told me also that it was a joke, and that the man that Elisha R. Gardner had recommended to be Colonel Cook of New-London, was Cook the hatter; that they said lived at the hill, and I told them that I had got the cats and that I intended to deliver them according to my agreement, and that I intended that Cook should pay for them or I intended to sue him.

Afterwards I found out that he lived within the gaol bounds, and that he was a learning French's son the hatters trade, and that suing him was like the old saying, "sue a beggar and catch a louse." I knew nothing of his being so poor at the time, I was carrying the cats to Boss's, and I called for the time of day, and they said it was almost ten o'clock; and I waited about one hour, and I asked Boss for a room to put the cats in, and asked him if he would furnish Cook with the rest of the cats in case Cook should come for them, and he said that he would furnish the rest in case that he came, but he would not let me have a room to put the cats in, he thought it best for me to carry the cats and deliver them to Cook, and let him know that I had fulfilled my part of the contract, and then it would stand clear to bring an action against Cook and as I was returning to the hill, I met Elisha R. Gardner and James Helms jun. and Elisha R. Gardner





said that I had better take the cats off the mare and he would inspect them, and see if they were merchantable, and I took the cats off and he took them out of the bag one by one, and inspected them, but did not brand them under the tail, for he had no branding iron, but he got the title of a cat inspector general, and he viewed their eyes and I believe inspected them faithfully, and I don't think that they can get a better cat inspector in the whole state, so he got the title of the office, and I think he is likely to retain it, for his judgment I believe is very good in cats. I suppose that it is necessary to see whether their eyesight is good, that, I believe, he is very careful about, for when he inspected the above said cats, he found two that he said could not see out of their eyes, for he said that there was but twelve merchantable cats, for there was two that could not see, so that I am confident that his judgment is very good in cats; whether his judgment will be so good in bitches I cannot tell yet, but I think it is likely to be good, for his abilities lies very much in cats and bitches, and filling pipes with powder and tobacco, he is gifted in that sort of business.

The place where the cat inspector let out the cats, was right against Adam Gold's house. I believe the hornet's nest company have reported abundance of lies about the business, for they reported that Adam Gold had predicted that the newlights would turn into cats, and when the cats went into his house he said that they were newlights turned into cats according to his prediction; and that company said that he went to preaching to them, and afterwards they reported that they turned into hogs, and that Gold had fourteen hogs, for when the inspector inspected them, he said that there was twelve merchantable cats, for there was two he said that could not see out of their eyes. The Cat Inspector said further that he had turned in forty cats to Colonel Cook, that he had not got his pay for, and he intended to sue him.—There is one

Name		Address		City		State		Zip	
Mr. J. H. Smith		123 Main St.		New York		NY		10001	
Mrs. A. B. Jones		456 Elm St.		Los Angeles		CA		90001	
Mr. C. D. Brown		789 Oak St.		Chicago		IL		60601	
Mrs. E. F. Green		101 Pine St.		Houston		TX		77001	
Mr. G. H. White		202 Maple St.		Phoenix		AZ		85001	
Mrs. I. J. Black		303 Cedar St.		San Antonio		TX		78101	
Mr. K. L. Gray		404 Birch St.		Dallas		TX		75201	
Mrs. M. N. Hall		505 Spruce St.		San Diego		CA		92101	
Mr. O. P. King		606 Willow St.		Austin		TX		78701	
Mrs. Q. R. Lee		707 Ash St.		Fort Worth		TX		76101	
Mr. S. T. Scott		808 Hickory St.		El Paso		TX		79901	
Mrs. U. V. Walker		909 Walnut St.		San Jose		CA		95101	
Mr. W. X. Young		1010 Chestnut St.		San Francisco		CA		94101	
Mrs. Y. Z. Adams		1111 Madison St.		Seattle		WA		98101	
Mr. A. B. Baker		1212 Broadway		Portland		OR		97201	
Mrs. C. D. Carter		1313 Franklin St.		Denver		CO		80201	
Mr. E. F. Evans		1414 Lincoln St.		Boston		MA		02101	
Mrs. G. H. Fisher		1515 Washington St.		Philadelphia		PA		19101	
Mr. I. J. Gibson		1616 Independence St.		New Orleans		LA		70101	
Mrs. K. L. Hall		1717 Jefferson St.		St. Louis		MO		63101	
Mr. M. N. Hill		1818 Adams St.		Kansas City		MO		64101	
Mrs. O. P. King		1919 Jackson St.		Columbus		GA		31901	
Mr. Q. R. Lee		2020 Madison St.		Nashville		TN		37201	
Mrs. S. T. Scott		2121 Monroe St.		Memphis		TN		38101	
Mr. U. V. Walker		2222 Taylor St.		Little Rock		AR		72201	
Mrs. W. X. Young		2323 Harrison St.		Jackson		MS		39201	
Mr. Y. Z. Adams		2424 Adams St.		Birmingham		AL		35201	
Mrs. A. B. Baker		2525 Jackson St.		Montgomery		AL		36101	
Mr. C. D. Carter		2626 Madison St.		Tulsa		OK		74101	
Mrs. E. F. Evans		2727 Jefferson St.		Oklahoma City		OK		73101	
Mr. G. H. Fisher		2828 Lincoln St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. I. J. Gibson		2929 Washington St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. K. L. Hall		3030 Independence St.		Ada		OK		73401	
Mrs. M. N. Hill		3131 Madison St.		Edmond		OK		73110	
Mr. O. P. King		3232 Jefferson St.		Claremore		OK		73529	
Mrs. Q. R. Lee		3333 Adams St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. S. T. Scott		3434 Jackson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. U. V. Walker		3535 Madison St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. W. X. Young		3636 Jefferson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. Y. Z. Adams		3737 Adams St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. A. B. Baker		3838 Jackson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. C. D. Carter		3939 Madison St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. E. F. Evans		4040 Jefferson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. G. H. Fisher		4141 Adams St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. I. J. Gibson		4242 Jackson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. K. L. Hall		4343 Madison St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. M. N. Hill		4444 Jefferson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. O. P. King		4545 Adams St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. Q. R. Lee		4646 Jackson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. S. T. Scott		4747 Madison St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. U. V. Walker		4848 Jefferson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	
Mrs. W. X. Young		4949 Adams St.		Muskogee		OK		74401	
Mr. Y. Z. Adams		5050 Jackson St.		Lawton		OK		73501	

circumstance that I think is much in favor of the cat inspector, that is a few days after the Cat Inspector, inspected the aforesaid cats, I went to the Horner's Nest, and Silvester Hazzard being there, he mewed and scratched me on the shoulder and the Cat Inspector being in the room, and I took Hazzard by the collar and I told the Cat Inspector that I wanted this cat inspected, and I went out of the room so that he might have a chance to inspect him, and I returned again, soon, and asked the Inspector whether he had inspected this cat and he said he had, and I asked him what he was and he said that he was a mofferadite cat; but I believe he had not branded him under the tail, for he had no branding iron, and I was much pleased with his judgment, for I thought he looked some like a mofferadite, and went to Cook and told him that I had got Silvester Hazzard inspected and the Inspector said he was a mofferadite, and I sold him to Cook for half price, for Cook said he wanted a pair of moffradites, and he asked me to get another that was suitable to span him, but I could not find one that I thought was suitable to span him, whether Cook has got him spanned or not, I do not know. This Elisha R. Gardner is very fond of office, for he has been laying a plan, in order to get another office, and I think he is likely to obtain it, if he gets his branding iron and comes over to Newport and brands the cats when he is requested to, for cats will not sell in the town of Newport unless they are inspected and branded with the letters, E. R. G. under their tails, as cat inspector, for they will not buy them unless they are actually branded by the Horner's Nest Inspector, and if he is nearly faithful, I think he stands a good chance to obtain the other office that he has mentioned to me in private that he had a mind to bring on a bitch trade for I suppose he thinks that the inspection of bitches will be as good as the inspecting of cats, though his faculties lies much in cats; people has not seen so much of his faculties





in bitches as they have seen in cats, for he has not shown so much of his faculties in bitches not yet, there is no doubt in my mind but they are good, or else he would not have had a thought of contriving a bitch trade for he told me that he expected to be a great man like General Washington, and expected that his effigee would be set up at the corners of the streets like Washington, and further, he advised me to set up a sign of a cat when I moved to Newport, for that would bring custom, therefore we must suppose that he was much in favor with cats, and he was sensible that I would not treat him so disrespectful as to set up a sign of a cat and not have the likeness of the cat inspector also, and as he mentioned my having a cat for a sign, for that was the way he took to be set up like General Washington. Perhaps after he has got the office of a bitch inspector he will advise somebody else to have the sign of a bitch set up. It has been hinted to me that he inspects black rats sometimes, but I can't really believe that my cat inspector would inspect black rats, for if he follows that business I am afraid it will hurt his character so much that he will never obtain to the office of bitch inspector, if he cannot obtain to that office it is not likely that he can get to be as great a man as General Washington, and be set up at the corners of the streets like Washington; but if he obtains, and can make out his ends, and get in to be an inspector of bitches, and can inspect a bitch, and sell her for as much money as Whittington did his cat, he will be likely to get his effigee set up like General Washington: I am willing to assist him all I can that he may obtain, and to forward the business I shall place him on a sign with a cat under his left arm, and a branding iron in his right hand, placed against her tail, I think that will be my part towards making a great man of him.

Having got through with the cat story, and his ob-





taining the office of a cat inspector, I think proper to set forth what took place soon afterwards: he was afflicted with the hypochondriack, and in that disorder the minds of men are frequently laid lower than they are when they are in a perfect state of health, for the nerves being affected lays the animal spirits too low, and they frequently think they are going to die soon, and that many times brings a serious thought about their future state, and how they shall give an account for the deeds done in the body, for in his bringing on the cat trade to obtain the above mentioned office, he made a great deal of use of the false tongue; it looks likely to me that his mind was some uneasy about it when he came to be afflicted with that disorder, and his faith being built up in water, for as I mentionad before, that he has frequently had made use of water to cure men when they are intoxicated, for he has told me that was the way to cure men when they were at the hornet's nest, he thought he would go to the pool at New-Lebanon, and try and see if he could get rid of the Hypochondriack and the false tongue by drinking and washing with that water, perhaps he might cleanse his heart from the false tongue and cure the Hypochondriack, and as he was returning home from the pool, I met him and used him how he did as to his health, and I enquired of him whether he had got rid of the false tongue; but I soon perceived that the false tongue remained with him.

I shall endeavor to inform people what I have discovered of him when he has been making use of the false tongue, as I have watched him since I have been acquainted with him, when he has been making use of the false tongue his nostrils spreads wider than they are when he tells the truth, so that by watching closely people may discover whether he is a telling a great lie or lies, for he is very much given to lying.

Now I think it is proper to inform him how it was

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with Annanias when he was caught with a lie upon his tongue, and I wish him to take it into serious consideration, for fear he should come off in the same way. Annanias was struck dead caught with a lie upon his tongue, so did his wife Sapphira die when she came in and grew so bold as to confirm that wicked lie, that just before, her husband told. I think it proper to inform the above said Elisha R. Gardner, how he can get rid of lying. The scripture says that the day of the Lord shall burn as an oven, we know that an oven burns in the inside, for Christ makes his ministers as a flame of fire, or else they are not able to do the works that he did, for in the twenty eighth of Matthew, he said to his disciples, go teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and lo I am with you to the end of the world, and the works that I do ye shall do also; and breathed on them the Holy Ghost, and commissioned them to cast out devils, and to heal the sick and wounded. Now my cat inspector being possessed with a lying spirit, and is in the sinful nature and state of mind that Adam represents the earth, earthly, and was cast out of paradise because he partook of that which the Lord had forbade him to partake of, and was the first transgressor, and being dead in sin and transgression, and was cast out of Paradise for his disobedience, and lost his state of innocence, and brought death on mankind. And the Lord sent his son into the world born of the Virgin Mary, to condemn sin in the flesh, for in Genesis he said that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head, for the serpent was more subtle than the beasts of the field. Thus it pleased God to restore poor fallen man, and bring in a nearer way of worship, as the prophets prophesied of him, for death reigned from Adam to Moses, and it was more pleasing to Almighty God, to send his son into the world to condemn sin in the flesh, and to bring in a near way of worship, and restore poor fallen man. For the

CHAPTER I

The first part of the book is devoted to a general survey of the subject. It begins with a definition of the term "philosophy" and a discussion of its history. The author then proceeds to a discussion of the various branches of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy. He then discusses the relationship between philosophy and other sciences, such as psychology, sociology, and biology. The second part of the book is devoted to a more detailed examination of the various branches of philosophy. It begins with a discussion of metaphysics, which is the study of the nature of reality. The author then discusses epistemology, which is the study of knowledge. He then discusses ethics, which is the study of morality. Finally, he discusses political philosophy, which is the study of the nature of government and society. The third part of the book is devoted to a discussion of the various schools of thought in philosophy. It begins with a discussion of the ancient Greeks, who were the first to develop a systematic philosophy. The author then discusses the medieval philosophers, who were influenced by the teachings of the Church. He then discusses the modern philosophers, who were influenced by the scientific revolution. Finally, he discusses the contemporary philosophers, who are concerned with the problems of the modern world. The book concludes with a discussion of the future of philosophy.



proverb of the fathers eating four grapes the children's teeth were set on edge; that proverb was no more to be used in Israel, but the soul that sins will surely die; Christ says put off the old man and his deeds; which was disobedience; for he says, come unto me all ye ends of the earth and be ye saved, for I kill I make alive; for he said to Jerusalem, how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not, therefore your houses are left unto you desolate. How comes their houses to be left desolate? because they would not be obedient to his dictates in their hearts, and as he spake many things in parables, for he thanked his Father Lord of Heaven and earth that he had hid these things from the wise and prudent of this world, and had revealed them unto babes, for he took a little child in his arms and blessed it and said of such is the kingdom of heaven, and said ye must all become as little children.

Now we know that a little child is in a state of innocence, and we read that Christ came a light into the world, that whosoever believed in him, believes in his light, and when they disobey the light of Christ they lose that innocent state that they were in when they first came into the world, for the light is called the law of God in the heart, and when children come to have that law or light, and disobey it, they lose their innocent state that they were in before they had the law or light discovered in their minds; and when they disobey that law or light, they are condemned in their minds by it, and if they obey it, they are justified by it, and are in the state of innocence, until they break that inward law and then they lose that innocent state that they was in when they came into the world, and they became sinners, and not till then, for when there is no law there is no transgression.

Adam never lost his innocent state till he disobeyed the Lord, neither did ever any man or woman; when Jonah disobeyed the Lord he was in the belly of hell, for





he said out of the belly of hell cried I; and it was for his disobedience; people generally break that law of light and grace in the heart, and disobey it till they are hardly sensible of it, and some people deny that there is any such thing it is called by many names, it is called the grace of God which appears to all men teaching them to live soberly and godly in this present world, it is called the seed of God sown in the hearts of the children of men, it is compared to a fire in the hearts of men, that burns up all the chaff and stubble in the heart, and cleanses the heart or mind from all filthiness both of flesh and spirit, for mankind is compared to old bottles for Christ said it would not do to put new wine into old bottles, for they would not hold it; we may see that the heavenly treasure cant be kept where the mind is full of vanity and lies or any thing that is contrary to his divine grace in the heart, for Adam in the state of transgression, is called the old man with his deeds, which was his disobedience, and he represented the earth or earthy sinful part in man, which is enmity with God, for he is altogether pure, and his gospel fire burns up all the earthly sinful part in the hearts of men, if they will be obedient to his dictates in their hearts; this seed of God sown in the heart, creates a new heaven wherein dwells righteousness. Now if so be that Elisha R. Gardner, or the hornet's nest company, or any body else, will strictly attend to this inward light and grace in their hearts, they will find business enough there, and they will have full employ enough without seeking into other men's business; for the meanest thing that I can compare them to is to a certain sort of flies, that are diligent in attending flesh wounds and they are in a dark state of mind; we read of some men's being full of deceit and the poison of asps is under their tongues. Now if Elisha R. Gardner will strictly attend to the above instruction, it will cleanse his heart and destroy all the false tongue in him, and he will speak the truth like other men



of truth, and his mind will not be aspiring after great things, or after being a great man like Washington, nor after having the office of a cat-inspector and bitch-inspector, or inspector of black rats, or giving away his money for to hire somebody that is with him to go out of sight so that he may have a chance to inspect a squaw that he was carrying to gaol. And also he will be willing, if he wants apples, he will be willing to buy them, and pay for them, and not untie a man's bag and let out his apples in order to get them without paying for them: neither will he pour water in men's sleeves under a pretence of friendship; neither will he have occasion to go to New-Lebanon spring, to drink and wash with that water to cleanse himself of the false tongue, for that water will not cleanse his tongue any more than the common water of a frog pond. Neither will he contrive to get a man to dress up in woman's clothes to swear a child on Stanton the turner, neither will he ride about the country to enquire for bitch puppies, in order for him to get the office of inspecting of them, nor will his mind run in making April fools of his neighbors; neither will he recommend a man to be a gentleman of New London, who is one of the hornets nest company, I shall leave him to the above-mentioned advice.

There is one John Nichols who is a saddler, that lives at the hornets nest, and wears a plain coat, and he has been in company so much with this cat inspector, that he has learnt to make use of the false tongue, for I am credibly informed, that he and Elisha R. Gardner has put their heads together and imposed on Joseph Stanton the turner, for they have got a man, as I am told to dress up in woman's apparel and swear a child on Stanton, and was about to commit him to gaol because he would not give bonds, and carried the jest as far as they dared to carry it without committing him. I think that was too much for a man that has a justices commission, much more for a





Friend. I shall reprove him for his lies and deceit. I speak boldly to him, and I shall use so much freedom with him as to tell him that he has deceived L. with his lies and deceit. I think it will be a hard task to deal with him, as I suppose he belongs to the Friends' meeting, and it is very difficult to deal with a lying hypocrite. I entertain a very good opinion of real Friends, but this John Nichols appears to me, to be a disgrace to the society; for a man to put on a plain coat and have a deceitful and lying heart, don't only deceive himself but often is a stumbling block to weak minds. When I find a man who calls himself a Friend and has not religion enough to make him morally honest, my heart despises such a man, and much more him that is full of deceit and lies, to defraud men. I shall write down his conduct to me, and speak the truth.

When I first moved into South-Kingstown, I sold him a quantity of seal-skins, and goat-skins, and he promised me that he would pay me the money in about ten days, how many times I called upon him for the money I cannot correctly tell, I suppose not less than ten times, and I made some discounts for part of it, not in money; and he promised me time after time, but did not pay me. After I had waited about six or seven months, for his negligence I was sued, and he promised me that he would stop the action and pay the debt. I rested easy about it about three months longer, and thought he had paid the debt, and Job Hopkins came down out of the country and wanted some saddles upon a long credit, and gave him my note, for I thought he had settled the old debt as he had promised me, and after about one year afterwards, I found that he had stopped the action but had not paid the money, and I had the money to pay myself, and about one dollar and seventy-cents cost to pay, and still had not the money from Nichols. I thought he was somewhat shuffling about it. Soon afterwards I agreed with him to





have some more saddles, and take out the old debt, and I believe the saddles came to almost thirty dollars more than the old score was, and he was to wait with me till I could make it convenient to pay it. So we settled and he said I might give him a note on demand, perhaps somebody or other would tell him that I should break and he would sue me, he promised me that he would not sue me, only let the note be upon interest and he would take it in something that I had to spare. It happened so that I paid him part of the debt sooner than I talked of paying, and reduced the note under twenty dollars, and without asking me for the pay, or giving me any notice he sued me, I was afronted and went to him and asked him how he came to treat me in such a shameful manner, and put me to cost, I asked him whether I had not paid him faster than I talked of paying him, and he said I had paid him sooner than I told him that I would pay him, and he promised me that he would pay cost, and he would not pay one cent of it, and his word is not worth one cent in my opinion, unless he is bound in writing. Perhaps some of his friends may think or suppose that I handle his character too freely, but I have so great aversion against lying and hypocrisy, that I think it is my duty to publish it to the world, and to his brethren; for Christ said that the time shall come, when seven women shall lay hold of one man, saying let us eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel, only to be called by thy name, to take away their reproach from the world, but a name to live, and being dead in sin and transgression, will not stand when we come to give an account for the deeds done in the body. I shall leave him and return to the hornet's nest company.

As I have not given a full account of their wit and activity in respect to their art when they go to the negro elections. One of the hornet's nest company told me that the old way of inspecting black rats and cheating them,



was to grind a copper smooth and pass it to a black rat in the dark for an English shilling, for a chance of inspecting the black rat and boast of it afterwards, and appear to be proud of it for they are not ashamed of cheating any one they can, but the cat inspector Colonel Cook. I think as Abram's name was changed from Abram to Abraham, colonel Cook's name be changed to colonel Cat, for he obtained the title of a colonel by being a cat merchant, and he appears to be proud of his office, he appears to be witty in arts of inspecting black rats, for he told me that he had found out a new way to inspect black rats, which is as follows.

To tye a not in a handkerchief and let the rat step one leg into the handkerchief, and flip his arm into the handkerchief and shoulder the rat's leg, that would bring the rat close too him, then he could inspect the rat standing on her leg. There has been some hints that colonel Cat caught the *quall* of a black rat and the quall began to whistle in the valley; how that was I cannot say, having got through with their art of inspecting black rats.



## A NEW CATECHISM

*More Studied than an older and a better one.*

What is the chief end of man  
 To gather up riches, to cheat all he can,  
 To flatter the rich, the poor to despise,  
 To pamper the fool, to humble the wise,  
 The rich to assist, to do all in his power  
 To kick the unfortunate still a peg lower,  
 To cry up fair freedom, defend it with vigor,  
 Have slaves without number, and use them with rigor,  
 To deal fair with all men, where riches attend them,  
 To grind down the poor, where there's none to defend  
 them,  
 To seduce the fair virgin to accept his embrace,  
 To cast on her then all the shame and disgrace,  
 To be angel without and devil within,  
 To pretend to all virtue, and practice all sin.  
 This is most men's chief end, or their actions belie them,  
 And if you don't believe it you may e'n go and try them.

## A PETITION

To the General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island  
 and Providence Plantation at Newport, for the  
*Hornet's Nest Company:*

YOUR petitioners pray that they may have a charter for their company, and to have certain privileges hereafter named, for to regulate our company; and we are a company that make but little use of the truth, for we laugh at them that keep to truth, and call them fools, and as our company are singular it is necessary that our charter should be so too, or else it will not fit the company; and as CHARLES COMSTOCK has wrote the truth respecting our conduct towards him and others, and we feel ourselves much injured by his publishing a pamphlet, certifying the truth respecting our conduct, and





we are very much opposed to truth, therefore we pray that the General Assembly may take it into their consideration, and grant us the privilege to sue him for writing the truth about us, if we can prove it true, and we have no doubt but that we can easily prove what he has wrote, to be the truth, and that we may recover all the damage we have sustained, by his publishing the truth about us, and if we cannot have that privilege granted to us we must write a book about him, containing all the lies that we can contrive, for we are as full of lies as he is of truth, and we think we can match him that way, for we are artful in lying. We further pray, that we may have the privilege of raising our company to one hundred and fifty smart active liars, and very full of deceit. And we further pray, that as spirituous liquors is a growing evil amongst us, that we lose more of our company with the rum fever, than we lose with the yellow fever, and we have been in the practice of pouring water in mens sleeves a nights, when they are intoxicated at the hornet's nest, we pray that we may have the privilege of pouring water in their sleeves in the day time if they are intoxicated. And we further pray, that we may have laws and regulations to govern our company, so as to keep them under certain rules and regulations, for some of our company hold office in the town of South-Kingstown, and it has been reported, that our cat inspector as he is a deputy sheriff, took a writ to attach Thomas Par's property, and we are informed that he was about to take one of Par's beds, and Par's wife was very much surprised, that the cat inspector should come to take the bed his own children lay on for she pointed to two of the children and said,        them two children belong to you, and you are about to take the bed they sleep on away, how can you be so cruel? and she burst out a crying, and the cat inspector cried likewise, and left the bed: and there has been some reports that the cat in-



spector inspects black-rats sometimes, and there has been reports that the black rats complain of him, and say his belly is too big to inspect them well, therefore we pray to have squire Nichols appointed to try all complaints of that kind or nature, and either of the parties that are dissatisfied with his judgment, they have a right of an appeal to colonel Cat, who is a man of an experimental knowledge in that art, and that all actions brought before squire Nichols and are appealed up to colonel Cat, that his judgment shall be binding on the parties and that we have the privilege to make laws and regulations, that the company shall see cause to make, not repugnant to their charter, and if we don't want this petition granted our actions belie us. We think this petition is agreeable to our conduct. Therefore we recommend the cat inspector to use his best endeavors to get the same granted, and to get it acted upon in the twilight of the evening, for fear they should see the cat inspector's nostrils spread, and not receive the same.

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*All printers are requested not to print any of these Pamphlets without leave of the author.*

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